

BEDFORD COUNTY BRIDGE NO. 4
TR 655 spanning Yellow Creek
Hopewell vicinity
Bedford County
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-356

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

BEDFORD COUNTY BRIDGE NO. 4
HAER No. PA-356

Location: TR 655 spanning Yellow Creek
Hopewell (vic.)
Bedford County
Pennsylvania

Date of Construction: 1889

Present Owner: Bedford County

Present Use: Vehicular bridge

Significance: This steel-constructed Pratt through truss is a typical metal truss span of the late nineteenth century. It is, however, one of the region's few surviving Keystone Bridge Company spans built for wagon traffic.

Historian: Scott C. Brown, 1991

Project Information: The results of the study of Bedford County were published in 1994: Kim E. Wallace (ed), Bedford County and Fulton County, Pennsylvania: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service). The contents of the publication were transmitted to the Library of Congress as individual reports. Research notes, field photos and copies of historic photos collected during the project were transmitted to the AIHP Collection, Special Collections, Stapleton Library, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, PA 15705.

This pin-connected Pratt through truss has ashlar stone abutments. The north wingwalls are concrete and the south are constructed of stone. With an overall length of 104', the bridge has a span of 100' and a roadway width of 12'. The superstructure consists of an upper chord of steel channel sections with riveted batten plates, diagonals of steel eyebars, verticals of steel channel sections with riveted lacing bars, hip verticals of steel eyebars, and a lower chord of double steel eyebars. The wood deck and wood stringers rest on steel I-beams. In recent years two tension bars were installed; these bars are anchored into concrete deadmen at each abutment.

This bridge was constructed by the Keystone Bridge Company in 1889. The company was founded in 1865, the principal organizer was the steel magnate Andrew Carnegie. Sometime between the years 1891 and 1894 the company became a part of the Carnegie Steel Company and was known as Keystone Bridge Works. Keystone was subsumed by the U.S. Steel subsidiary, the American Bridge Company, after the giant steel maker was formed in 1900.

Sources:

Bridge plaque.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Transportation,
Engineering District 9-0 computer database.

Darnell, Victor C. Directory of American Bridge-Building
Companies, 1840-1900. Washington, D.C.: Society for
Industrial Archeology, Occasional Publication No. 4, 1984.